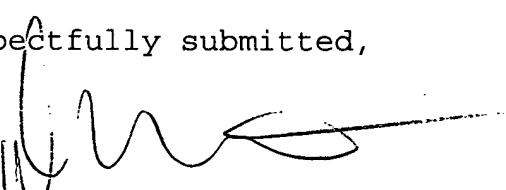


APPLICANT'S RESPONSE

Applicant hereby elects, for prosecution in this application, the claims directed to the Group I, without traverse. The following claims are directed to group I: 1-11. This election is expressly without prejudice to applicant's right to pursue the non-elected inventions in one or more divisional applications. Claim 12 has been canceled.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Daniel J. Piotrowski, Reg. 42,079
Senior Corporate Patent Counsel
(914) 333-9624

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

On MAY 23, 2002
By Naomi Chgc